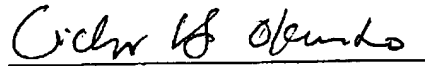


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to reflect suggestions received by the Examiner in a Telephone Interview with the Examiner on February 16, 2007, and with such amendments, the pending Claims 1-5, 8-9, 12, 15, 18-22, 25, 28, 31-35, 38, 41, 44-47 and 52-55 are believed to be now allowable, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 16, 2007


Victor H. Okumoto
Reg. No. 35,973
Office Phone: (510) 792-1112